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November 25, 1992

Ms. Mary Elaine Gustafson
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: HIMCO Dump Site, Elkhart, Indiana Public Comment

Dear Ms. Gustafson:

Oh behalf of Durakool, Inc., we hereby submit the following public comment with respect to the HIMCO dump site and the identification of Durakool, Inc. as a potentially responsible party ("PRP") at this site. Please include these comments in the public records.

Durakool, Inc. believes that it is being wrongly accused and should not be identified as a PRP at this site. Prior to the September, 1976, closure of the HIMCO site, Durakool generated a small quantity of general refuse. As has previously been stated in its prior response to U.S. EPA's information request, this general refuse comprised of general office waste paper, shipping materials, and yard trimmings. There is no evidence that any of this refuse contained volatile organics or heavy metals that are the principal concern at this site. Durakool's records indicate that in 1978 and probably prior to that time, Durakool was generating an average of 3 and 1/2 dumps per month from a 16 cubic yard dumpster. To the best of its knowledge, Durakool began services with HIMCO in approximately April, 1976, just five months prior to the closure of the HIMCO landfill.

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Based on the size of the landfill, the volume of waste generated by Durakool, and the contaminants of concern at this site, there is simply no evidence to suggest that Durakool contributed to the contamination at this site. Moreover, to the best of Durakool's knowledge, there is no direct evidence that the refuse generated by Durakool was even delivered to the HIMCO Road 10 site. If, in fact, waste stopped going to the County Road 10 site prior to April, 1976, it is unlikely that the company's general refuse was even delivered to this site.

Based on the lack of any evidence suggesting that Durakool contributed, in any way, to the contamination discovered at the HIMCO dump site, Durakool hereby requests that it be deleted from the PRP list at this site.

It is our understanding that Miles Inc. has submitted public comments recommending a "No Action" alternative, and requesting that this site be delisted from the National Priorities List. Miles' comments are based on the fact that U.S. EPA's own test results have indicated that no toxic levels of any hazardous substances are leaving this site. Durakool agrees with the comments contained in Miles' public comment and incorporates it by reference.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth W. Vermeulen/jsm

Kenneth W. Vermeulen
Attorney for Durakool, Inc.

jsm

cc: Mr. George B. Bucklen